

at least one of the pickup elements (16b...16n-1) is mounted in such a way that drive means (39) can move it in a vertical direction (Z);

said movements making it possible for the movable device (6;6a) to return in a direction opposite the forward feed direction (F,F2) and pass over a panel positioned on the table (5); with some of the pickup elements, the ones labelled (162), having risen to a given height along the axis (Z) so as not to interfere with said panel, and some of the pickup elements, the ones labelled (161), having moved crossways in the horizontal direction (H) to a lateral position outside the area occupied by the panel.

REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in better condition for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EL367495173 addressed to: Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 10, 1999.

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